

Group III, claims 44, drawn to transformed host cells.

Restriction of claims 37-41 (Group I) and claims 41-43 and 45 (Group II) under 35 U.S.C. 120 is respectfully traversed. It is respectfully submitted that a search of the Group I claims (drawn to, *inter alia*, the receptor polypeptides would, of necessity include a search of the Group II claims (drawn to the antibodies).

As such, no savings of PTO resources will be achieved by enforcing the restriction requirement presently asserted. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the requirement for restriction and/or regrouping of the claims, e.g., by combining Groups I and II is respectfully requested. In order to be fully responsive, Applicants elect the invention defined by the Group I claims (i.e., claims 37-40) without prejudice to the prosecution of the non-elected claims in a related patent application.

Applicants retain the right to petition from the restriction requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.144. Favorable reconsideration of the Restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

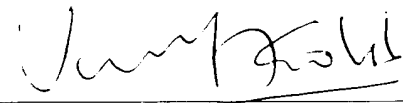
It is believed that the claims are in a condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be of value, he is requested to call the undersigned counsel at the number listed below.

Any additional fees required in connection with this submission may be taken from Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

Respectfully submitted,

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